

Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra 🏠

community health / pre-professional healthcare / spanish language



program snapshot

- Courses held at the best academic institution of higher learning in the Dominican Republic
- One-week semi-rural clinical field rotation, providing field experience
- Urban community service practicum in and around Santiago; gives students the ability to work with local public health experts
- Excursions to sites of cultural importance in and around Santiago, including a weekend trip to Santo Domingo; homestay with a local family

what you'll learn

The Community Public Health summer program is designed to provide students an introduction to basic healthcare issues in a Hispanic Caribbean context and to increase their Spanish language skills to the advanced level. This is achieved through advanced Spanish conversation and grammar classes, coursework focused on pre-professional healthcare issues, a community health practicum, and a homestay. There are also excursions throughout the island, an urban community service project, and a one-week stay in a semi-rural health clinic.

thoughts from abroad

My position as Resident Director allows me to share what I have learned through research with students participating in the program. Much of my work focuses on health issues in the developing world and infectious diseases in the context of social justice, human rights, and their abuses. I have worked on health development programs in Nigeria, Ghana, and Zimbabwe, and have published several articles on health and human rights, and race and ethnicity in Africa and the Caribbean.

Through coursework, a community health practicum, home-stays, and a rich and challenging social environment, it is my hope that you will gain an appreciation and understanding of health and healthcare, and obstacles to achieving it in the Dominican Republic.

— David Simmons, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Dr. David Simmons has a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Michigan State University and a M.A. in Anthropology from Iowa State University. Dr. Simmons has been the Resident Director of the CIEE Study Center at Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra in Santiago, Dominican Republic: Community Public Health since 2001. His position with CIEE allows him to combine professional, academic, and personal interests in public health, development studies, and Spanish language and Caribbean studies. Dr. Simmons is also a full-time Research Fellow with Harvard Medical School. He recently founded a non-profit organization, Zanmi Batey, focusing on health and human rights issues of Haitians and Dominican-Haitians residing on bateys in the Cibao region.

About Other CIEE Staff

Nathaniel Thompson, Resident Coordinator, earned a B.A. in Spanish Language and Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Colorado at Boulder. During his undergraduate studies, Nathaniel participated in several study abroad programs, including the CIEE Study Center at Universidad de Sevilla in Seville, Spain and the CIEE Study Center in Santiago, Dominican Republic. Before joining the CIEE Santiago team in the fall of 2006, he worked as a Student Advisor for the Study Abroad Programs office at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He also worked in Southern France and returned to Seville to work at the CIEE Study Center.

Melba González, Program Assistant, graduated with a B.S. in psychology from the Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago. She has worked with the Community Health summer program for more than 10 years. Leidy Medina, a psychology major at Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM), is the PUCMM student intern who works directly with the CIEE resident staff and acts as a bridge between CIEE students, PUCMM students, and the local community.

about santiago

Santiago de los Caballeros, the second largest city in the Dominican Republic, is surrounded by mountains in the lush valley of the Cibao region. Places of historical, cultural, and ecological interest are nearby, and it is just a little over an hour's drive to the Atlantic Coast. Known as *La Ciudad Corazón* (City of the Heart), Santiago is the commercial and cultural center of the fertile Cibao Valley region, housing over 100 industrial free trade zone factories, the León Jimenez cultural center, and the commercial street of Calle del Sol. Although it is a growing city with a population exceeding 800,000, Santiago retains many features of a small town.

academics

Academic Program

This seven-week program consists of six weeks of language and healthcare courses, and a weeklong semi-rural clinical field rotation. Students also participate in an urban community service practicum in and around Santiago as part of the academic curriculum.

Academic Culture

Most PUCMM students specialize in such professions as the law, medicine, engineering, education, or business. The only social science major is psychology. Like all universities in the Dominican Republic, PUCMM has limited resources compared to most U.S. colleges and universities.

The summer program courses have been designed by PUCMM specifically for CIEE students only. All coursework is conducted in Spanish. Students should be prepared for a style of teaching that is more formal and technical, relying primarily on lectures and emphasizing memorization. Readings are typically assigned in class.

Nature of Classes

Participants take classes with other CIEE students only.

Language Environment

As students gain proficiency in Spanish, resident staff encourage them to use their language skills in everyday settings. This fosters a learning community that contributes to both Spanish language proficiency and understanding of Dominican society.

Grading System

Students are normally graded on the basis of quizzes, exams, papers, and class participation much like in the United States. Letter grades of A, B, C, D, and F are given without pluses or minuses.



where you'll study

The Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra is a private, non-profit institution of higher education. Founded in 1962, PUCMM has been ranked by the Inter-American Development Bank as the best academic institution of higher learning in the Dominican Republic. It has five academic divisions: social sciences and administration, science and humanities, engineering, health sciences, and tourism/restaurant management. With a population of approximately 10,000 students, PUCMM offers the academic resources, support services, and physical facilities of a superior-level Latin American educational institution.

living

Housing and Meals

Housing and meals are included in the program fee. Students live in Dominican private homes and meals are taken at the place of residence. Most families live within walking distance of the University. CIEE works closely with host families to give students the opportunity to become immersed in Dominican society. Students and their families are asked to speak Spanish only. Living in private homes is considered the best housing arrangement in Santiago because of its practicality and its contribution to the program's objectives.

Students live in a semi-rural clinic for up to one week, where they are paired with local medical staff. Prior to their stay at the clinic, CIEE staff take students to shop for food for the week. Some students may prefer to eat at local eateries or arrange to have meals prepared for a nominal fee.

Orientation

A six-day orientation session at the beginning of the program introduces students to Santiago, the Dominican Republic, and to PUCMM. Students take a Spanish language placement test, register for courses, and meet and interact with Dominican students. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

There is a computer lab at PUCMM available for student use. For a nominal fee, students can also use a computer/telephone center across from the University.

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

This program includes guided visits to sites of historic and cultural importance in Santiago. There is a weekend trip scheduled to the Dominican Republic's capital city, Santo Domingo.

eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75
- 4 semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent
- College-level coursework in public health recommended

duration

7 weeks: late May–mid-July

costs

CIEE Fees

Summer 2009: \$5,200
Summer 2010: available 12/15/09

The CIEE fees for 2010 include an optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing and three meals per day, orientation, cultural activities, local excursions, a weekend trip to capital Santo Domingo, one-week stay at a semi-rural health clinic, a comprehensive student handbook, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card, which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Summer 2009)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 550
Personal Expenses	\$ 450
Local Transportation	\$ 125
Books and Supplies	\$ 100
Visa Fee	\$ 50
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 1,275

Check our website for current fees.



coursework

Program Requirements

Students are required to take all three CIEE program courses.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the summer program is 9 semester/15 quarter hours.

Contact hours for each course are 45 hours and recommended credit is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours per course.

Language of Instruction

Spanish

Faculty

All courses are taught by PUCMM faculty.

a student's story

I chose the Santiago program to achieve an understanding of the medical conditions in a third world country. The classes at PUCMM were excellent. The professors truly cared about the needs of each student and opened the floor for discussion. My favorite class was the Community Health Practicum, where I went out into the community and spoke about the prevention of certain diseases, such as tuberculosis, hypertension, diabetes, etc. Not only did I learn about diseases, but I also had the opportunity to go out into the community and gain insight into what Dominicans think. The best part of the program was the week I lived in a rural clinic, where we shadowed two physicians as they dealt with their patients. I will never forget the generosity shown to us by members of the community.

My host mother treated me as if I was her son, and I felt very comfortable among all of my family members and bonded well. I know, without a doubt, that I have another family and a second mother whom I can count on. Having such an awesome host family put the exclamation point on my experience!

I gained insight into the medical conditions of the Dominican Republic and greatly improved my Spanish language skills. I will never forget the memories, stories, and adventures that I had.

— Jason Carrero, Wofford College

courses

Required CIEE Courses

PUBH 3001 DRSU

Pre-Professional Healthcare Issues

This course addresses scientific and social problems of health and illness, both in general and in the Dominican Republic. It covers concepts of public health with a focus on the health/illness process and its relation to health management, policies, and coverage. The course also includes discussion on the technical and scientific tools used to study health, the social and biological factors involved in illness, doctor/patient relationships, and international health issues.

PUBH 3002 DRSU

Community Health Practicum

This course introduces students to the multi-dimensional nature of health, health and preventive medicine programs, and primary healthcare administration through involvement in health-related community services. Students are assigned field placements with local health promoters in marginalized neighborhoods, supervised by program faculty. Mid-term, students are placed in field activities for five days for the purpose of investigation, observation, and community education. A final project is based in part upon the field experience.

SPAN 3003 DRSU

Advanced Spanish Conversation and Grammar

This is an advanced Spanish language course, focusing on grammar, reading, and oral expression. It is designed to improve both active command of the language by means of readings and discussion, and to increase students' mastery of Spanish grammar in communication contexts and in writing. Special attention is given to medical terminology.

